

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TOWN OFFICIALS
OF



FOR THE
Financial Year Ending March 1, 1903.

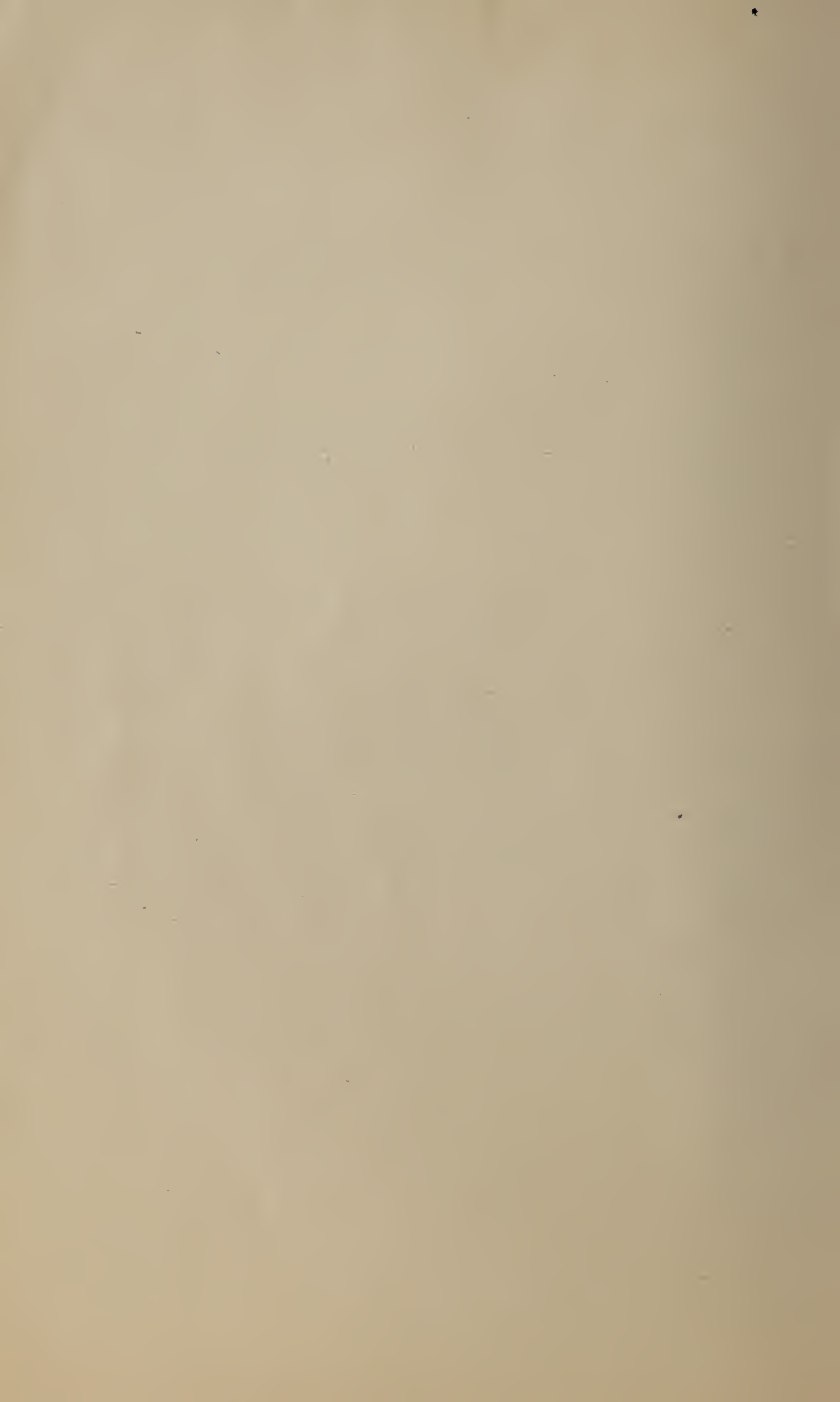
BARRE, MASS.:
MRS. JENNIE C. SPOONER, STEAM BOOK AND JOB PRINTER.
GAZETTE OFFICE.

ANNUAL REPORT
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FOR THE
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MRS. JENNIE C. SPOONER, STEAM BOOK AND JOB PRINTER.
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TOWN OFFICERS.

TOWN CLERK :

JESSE ALLEN.

SELECTMEN :

FRANK S. CONANT, HARRY B. PARKER,
CARLOS P. HILL.

ASSESSORS :

S. H. BULLARD, WM. GAFFNEY, FRANK NYE.

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR :

JESSE ALLEN, WM. S. CRAWFORD, WM. S. SPEAR.

COLLECTOR :

WM. S. CRAWFORD.

TREASURER :

JESSE ALLEN.

CONSTABLES :

W. C. BLISS, WM. S. CRAWFORD, W. R. DEAN,
N. W. PACKARD, W. M. ROBINSON, O. D. WEBBER.

AUDITOR :

JOHN P. DAY, JR.

FENCE VIEWERS.

N. W. PACKARD, A. C. BULLARD, L. N. HASKELL.

SURVEYORS OF LUMBER :

C. H. PARKER, W. R. DEAN, WM. S. CRAWFORD.

MEASURERS OF WOOD AND BARK :

W. R. DEAN,

WM. S. CRAWFORD.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE :

JESSE ALLEN, MRS. M. L. WOODIS, H. W. LINCOLN.

LIBRARY TRUSTEES :

MRS. M. L. WOODIS, F. E. DAVIS, JESSE ALLEN

CEMETERY COMMITTEE :

D. R. DEAN, WM. S. CRAWFORD, JESSE ALLEN.

SUPERINTENDENT OF STREETS :

WILLIAM A. NYE.

CATTLE INSPECTOR :

SANFORD H. BULLARD.

TREE WARDEN :

CHARLES H. TROWBRIDGE.

SEXTON :

JAMES P. FAIRBANK.

FOREST FIREWARD :

WALTER A. WOODIS.

SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES :

WM. S. CRAWFORD.

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT :

HERBERT J. JONES.

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN.

THE selectmen submit the following report for the financial year ending March 1, 1903 :

PAID TOWN OFFICERS.

Town clerk, services,	\$22 40	
Express,	4 95	
Postage,	1 65	
Copying old records,	6 60	
	<hr/>	\$35 60
Treasurer,	25 00	
Traveling expenses,	7 00	
	<hr/>	32 00
Collector, services,	75 00	
Collector's book,	1 50	
Printing tax bills and express,	2 60	
Postage,	7 00	
Discount on taxes,	176 63	
	<hr/>	262 73

SELECTMEN.

F. S. Conant,	25 00	
H. B. Parker,	25 00	
C. P. Hill,	25 00	
Postage and telephone,	6 72	
	<hr/>	81 72

ASSESSORS.

S. H. Bullard,	\$31 00	
Frank Nye,	30 00	
William Gaffney,	26 25	
Assessors' book,	1 20	
Printing and postage,	1 20	
	————	\$89 65

OVERSEERS OF POOR.

For support of paupers,	444 58
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SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

For support of schools,	2330 77	
For services, H. W. Lincoln,	12 50	
	————	2343 27

SUPERINTENDENT OF STREETS.

For repairing highways,	1416 29
Opening roads, 1902 and 1903,	181 62

INSPECTOR OF MEATS.

S. H. Bullard, 1901 and 1902,	21 75
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BALLOT CLERKS AND TELLERS.

H. S. Harwood,	4 00	
A. C. Morse,	4 00	
I. W. Mullett,	2 00	
John P. Day,	2 00	
	————	12 00

INSPECTOR OF CATTLE.

S. H. Bullard,	21 00
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LIBRARY TRUSTEES.

For support of town library,	50 00
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AUDITOR.

John P. Day, Jr.,	18 00
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REGISTRARS OF VOTERS.

F. S. Conant,	\$8 00	
H. B. Parker,	8 00	
C. P. Hill,	8 00	
Jesse Allen,	8 00	
	—	\$32 00

STATE AID.

Paid M. J. Kenner,	60 00	
S. Amanda Reed,	48 00	
Horace M. Green,	36 00	
John E. Stone,	48 00	
Eliza Caldwell,	48 00	
Sophronia A. Parker,	48 00	
	—	288 00

SOLDIERS' RELIEF.

For Edward S. Crowd,	39 09
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STREET LAMPS.

Paid C. H. Parker & Son, supplies,	11 60	
James C. Bemis, care,	17 50	
Roger Conant, care,	29 27	
F. S. Conant, supplies,	9 74	
	—	68 11

MEMORIAL DAY.

Paid George W. Stone,	1 50
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SEXTON.

Paid J. P. Fairbanks,	24 00
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SHADE TREES.

Paid C. H. Trowbridge, tree warden,	23 88
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STATE ROAD.

Paid selectmen,	472 95
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BOND FOR TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Winslow & Co., for treasurer,	\$15 00
Winslow & Co., for collector,	10 00
Paid cemetery committee,	2 05

FOREST FIRE WARDEN.

Paid W. A. Woodis, warden,	\$3 90	
W. A. Bushnell,	1 05	
A. K. Reed,	1 40	
O. D. Tottingham,	70	
Roger Conant,	96	
F. K. Packard,	1 13	
C. H. Trowbridge,	3 13	
John W. Dwelley,	2 45	
W. H. Parkman,	1 05	
A. C. Angus,	1 75	
Frank Nye,	1 40	
John E. Stone,	2 40	
Samuel Sherman,	88	
John Gaffney,	35	
Geo. N. Briggs,	4 63	
J. K. Parmenter,	1 22	
A. H. Draper,	1 40	
David Hallowell,	1 78	
A. C. Morse,	88	
Dona Bauleau,	1 40	
W. M. Robinson,	1 40	
	<hr/>	35 26

MISCELLANEOUS.

Paid as follows :

I. W. Mullett, printing town reports,	42 95
F. S. Conant, sal ammonia,	1 00
Roger Conant, setting glass in town hall,	1 49
F. E. Reed, painting and repairing hearse,	16 00

Paid F. E. Reed, work on town pump and steps,	\$2 26
Repairs on Memorial hall chimney,	26 55
Sylvester Bothwell, sheriff services in Jud- son Field case,	61 79
Dr. W. E. Chamberlain, reporting birth,	25
F. S. Conant, supplies for board of health,	3 45
F. E. Davis, ringing bell,	35 00
F. E. Davis, care of hall,	10 00
F. S. Conant, expense to Boston (Field case).	2 50
C. H. Parker & Son, street lamps for Cold- brook,	14 16
	———— \$217 40
Total,	\$6241 95

All of which is respectfully submitted,

FRANK S. CONANT,	} <i>Selectmen</i> <i>of</i> <i>Oakham.</i>
HARRY B. PARKER,	
CARLOS P. HILL,	

List of Jurors as Revised by the Selectmen.

James Sheern,	Geo. W. Stone,	Frank Nye,
Wm. S. Crawford,	Edmund Cody,	Alfred C. Morse,
Henry Bartlett,	W. W. Russell,	C. H. Parker,
Watson A. Bushnell.		

Treasurer's Report.

DR.

To cash balance,	\$1766 03
Use of Town Hall,	50 00
Use of piano,	5 00
Fines returned,	18 48
Sale of school supplies,	3 91
D. R. Dean, butcher's license,	1 00
Inspector of animals,	10 50
Support of State paupers,	12 01
H. D. Bullard, ashes,	2 00
F. E. Reed, apples,	1 00
Mortar and cement,	70
Grass on Common,	1 00
Use of hearse house,	1 00
State highway fund,	456 00
Corporation tax,	5 91
National bank tax,	65 21
State aid refunded,	336 00
Dog fund,	156 24
Mass. school fund,	364 00
State return for Supt. of schools,	250 00
Tuition of Boston children,	175 00
Tuition of State children,	34 00
High school tuition refunded,	33 50
Interest on bank deposits,	25 71
Wm. S. Crawford, collector.	4497 37
	\$8271 57

CR.

By paying Selectmen's orders,	\$6241 95
Cash on hand,	2029 62
	\$8271 57
Pine Grove cemetery trust fund (Rev. G. H. Gould),	\$100 00
South cemetery trust fund (Daniel H. Dean),	100 00
Benjamin Clark P. legacy,	326 50

Respectfully submitted,

JESSE ALLEN, *Treasurer.*

Collector's Report.

DR.

Taxes committed for collection in 1902 :

State tax,	\$165 00
County tax,	354 00
Town tax,	4181 20
Uncollected tax of 1898,	52 15
“ “ 1899,	135 00
“ “ 1900,	300 00
“ “ 1901,	1142 63
Interest on taxes,	86 39
	<hr/> \$6416 37

CR.

Paid State tax,	\$165 00
County tax,	354 00
Treasurer's receipts,	4497 37
Uncollected taxes of 1900,	50 00
“ “ 1901,	300 00
“ “ 1902,	1050 00
	<hr/> \$6416 37

Respectfully submitted,

WM. S. CRAWFORD,

Collector.

REPORT OF THE Superintendent of Streets.

The superintendent of streets makes the following report
for the year ending March 1, 1903 :

REPAIRING HIGHWAY—1902.

Paid W. A. Nye,	\$489 32
Wm. Parkman,	32 00
Patrick Cummings,	76 00
H. D. Bullard,	122 81
Edwin Green,	159 61
L. P. Green,	155 21
Burpee Banks,	93 97
W. H. Boyd,	38 41
N. J. Green.	64 05
Patrick McGreevey,	5 78
B. S. Reed,	18 45
Henry Bartlett,	2 98
W. W. Russell,	12 72
Alfred Morse,	2 00
Iver Johnson & Co.,	10 75
F. S. Conant,	2 77
R. F. Parker,	6 25
J. H. Keep,	6 28
A. B. Spooner,	4 00
A. B. Black,	8 50
Lyman Green,	1 58
C. H. Trowbridge,	88

Paid D. R. Dean,	\$53 68
Parker Lumber Co.,	11 14
C. H. Parker & Son,	5 10
F. E. Loring, 1901 and 1902,	9 05
Louis Jeffrey,	5 35
Wallace Grimes,	15 00
Paul Wheeler,	1 65
G. N. Briggs,	1 00
	————\$1416 29

OPENING ROADS—1902.

Paid W. A. Nye,	\$6 28
B. S. Reed,	88
Edwin Green,	2 63
W. B. Green,	88
W. H. Boyd,	88
Thomas Winter,	53
Owen Gilboy,	1 05
John Gilboy,	2 27
Patrick McGreevey,	70
Daniel Shea,	1 75
Samuel Sherman,	1 75
G. N. Briggs,	4 73
W. A. Bushnell,	1 05
C. H. Trowbridge,	70
Walter Woodis,	79
H. R. Loring,	60
H. Bartlett,	1 75
H. D. Bullard,	1 66
J. H. Keep,	2 10
W. M. Robinson,	1 60
David Hallowell,	70
John Gaffney,	4 23
James Scott,	1 75

Paid Martin White,	\$2 45	
Patrick Moran,	88	
L. N. Haskell,	1 61	
Wm. Gaffney,	1 72	
M. S. Dean,	1 31	
A. H. Draper,	70	
Edson Hapgood,	2 51	
G. W. Stone,	2 53	
Henry W. Stone,	1 75	
J. C. Rutherford,	1 49	
James Leyden,	9 80	
M. M. Butterfield,	7 20	
Wm. Parkman,	2 30	
Kimball Packard,	60	
James Gilboy,	1 23	
	<hr/>	\$79 34

OPENING ROADS—1902-03.

Paid W. A. Nye,	\$9 36
H. R. Loring,	1 93
Arthur Reed,	53
Van R. Malcolm,	57
Roger Conant,	57
F. E. Burt,	70
Bert S. Reed,	70
A. B. Spooner,	4 99
H. A. Crawford,	3 40
T. C. Gaffney,	10 45
Justin Rawson,	3 86
N. J. Green,	1 58
W. B. Green,	88
W. H. Royd,	88
G. N. Briggs,	2 54
J. P. Gaffney,	9 31
Patrick McGreevey,	1 58

Paid W. M. Robinson,	\$2 00
M. M. Butterfield,	5 32
Wm. Gaffney,	3 00
S. H. Haskell,	4 64
F. A. Dexter,	2 00
Patsy White,	3 32
J. H. Keep,	16 80
H. W. Lincoln,	10 32
C. H. Trowbridge,	1 05
	———— \$102 28

The guide posts and boards are erected and maintained as required by law, and are in good condition.

Respectfully submitted,

W. A. NYE,

Street Superintendent.

REPORT OF THE OVERSEERS of the POOR,

To January 1, 1903.

Paid for support of Almira Woodis,	\$52 00
Support of Lydia Chamberlain,	61 75
Support of Benjamin Nourse,	113 34
Support of Charles Winslow,	102 73
Support of Grace Thresher,	39 00
Monument inscription, Ambrose Hall,	4 00
Family of Thomas Fennel,	12 01
Wm. S. Crawford, for 18 tramps,	4 50
Same, general service,	6 00
Jesse Allen, 12 trips to Holden,	30 00
Same, 1 trip to Worcester,	3 50
Same, general service,	9 00
Wm. S. Spear, general service,	5 00
Telephoning and postage,	1 75
	<hr/> \$444 58
Refunded from the state,	12 01
	<hr/>
Total expense to the town,	\$432 57

Respectfully submitted,

JESSE ALLEN,	} Overseers of the Poor.
WM. S. SPEAR,	
WM. S. CRAWFORD,	

HOLDEN POOR FARM ASSOCIATION.

Thirteenth annual report of the Holden Poor Farm Association for the year ending Jan. 31, 1903.

INMATES RECEIVING SUPPORT.

HOLDEN.

NAME.	AGE.	ADMITTED.	NO. DAYS.
Lizzie Kenney,	46 yrs.		365
Winifred Durdeen,	52 yrs.		365
Charles Prue,	80 yrs.		365
Jane Prue,	81 yrs.	April 21.	285
Thomas O'Keefe,	70 yrs.	Dec. 10.	52
			<hr/> 1432

HUBBARDSTON.

David Rice,	84 yrs.		365
Henry Clark,	24 yrs.		365
Shirley Libbey,	80 yrs.	April 24.	283
John Neland,	81 yrs.	Sept. 17. Away 32 days.	105
Andrew May,	53 yrs.	Jan. 8.	23
John Wilson,	68 yrs.	April 24. Discharged May 8.	14
Minnie Whitney,	8 yrs.	Sept. 17. Discharged Nov. 11.	55
			<hr/> 1210

OAKHAM.

Charles Winslow,	43 yrs.		365
Benjamin Nourse,	74 yrs.		365
			<hr/> 730

RUTLAND.

Rosa Roen, 65 yrs.	365
John Kelly, 42 yrs. Away 22 days.	343
Preston Warren, 80 yrs. Admitted as a boarder Dec. 17.	45
James Watwitt, 45 yrs. Dec. 27.	35
	<hr/>
	788

PAXTON.

Carrie Snow, 48 yrs.	365
Lavina Pierce, 56 yrs.	365
Jacob Rarle, 66 yrs. May 15.	261
Clara Mixen, 65 yrs. April 20. Died June 1.	42
	<hr/>
	1033

TEMPLETON.

Mary Seaver, 68 yrs. Discharged March 26.	54
Sylvina Howe, 90 yrs. Aug. 26. Died Sept. 8.	13
Frank Hill, 76 yrs. Oct. 27. Died Jan. 29.	94
	<hr/>
	161

PRINCETON.

Henry Brown, 56 yrs. May 7.	269
John Black, 50 yrs. Aug. 19.	165
	<hr/>
	434

WESTMINSTER.

Adaline Eager, 62 yrs.	365
Margaret Cronin, 57 yrs. Committed to Insane Hospital Oct. 31.	273
Sarah Blake, 63 yrs.	365
Jeremiah Lucius, 78 yrs.	365
Frank A. Taylor, 59 yrs. Died May 4.	93
Laura Freeman, 64 yrs. Away 17 days.	348
	<hr/>
	1809

Total board furnished, 7597 days or 1085 3-7 weeks.

Preston Warren of Rutland, a veteran of the war of the rebellion, was admitted as a boarder Dec. 17.

Total number of inmates 32, of whom 3 have died, 4 have been discharged, 1 committed to Insane Hospital, and 24 remain, making the weekly average $20\frac{10}{13}$.

FINANCIAL EXHIBITS.

RECEIPTS.

Milk,	\$1770 84
Stock,	188 50
Board,	40 00
Miscellaneous,	29 38
	—————\$2028 72

EXPENDITURES.

Warden and Matron's salary,	\$600 00
Outside labor,	281 60
Inside labor,	156 37
Flour and grain,	988 31
Groceries,	488 72
Dry goods and furniture,	185 50
Meat and fish,	186 42
Boots and shoes,	32 94
Tools and seeds,	119 02
Blacksmithing,	53 00
Medical attendance and medicine,	71 28
Stock,	326 50
Fertilizer,	41 25
Ice,	9 60
Insurance,	36 23
Tobacco and snuff,	34 30
Miscellaneous,	89 93

Rent,	\$325 00
Interest on personal property,	120 99
Wood,	40 00
	<hr/> \$4186 96
Less receipts,	2028 72
	<hr/>
Making net expense,	\$2158 24

Cost per week for each inmate, \$1.99.

Making expense for each town as follows:

Holden,	\$406 82
Hubbardston,	343 71
Oakham,	207 37
Rutland,	223 83
Paxton,	293 47
Templeton,	45 74
Princeton,	123 28
Westminster,	514 02
	<hr/> \$2158 24

Phillipston and Royalston were fortunate in having no inmates and Templeton has none at the present time.

The first ten years of the Association closing with Jan. 31, 1900, was as follows:

	Average annual weekly board.	Weekly average of inmates.	Cost per week.
	883 $\frac{3}{7}$	17	\$2.22 plus
Year ending Jan. 31, '01,	888	17 $\frac{1}{3}$	2.00
Year ending Jan. 31, '02,	985 $\frac{2}{7}$	18 $\frac{12}{13}$	1.98

By the death of Mr. F. T. Holt the board of management lost a cherished friend, who had represented the town of Holden from the formation of the Association.

During the present month a serious lung and bronchial epidemic prostrated nearly one-half of the inmates, one of whom died. Previous to this attack the general health had been good; the two previous deaths being caused by old age and paralysis. The town of Princeton was admitted to the Association last spring. The record of sales from the herd of twenty cows was \$89 each. Christmas brought its usual bountiful dinner, contributed by Hon. F. S. Coolidge of Fitchburg. The services of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Potter have been secured for the ensuing year.

Respectfully submitted,

HOBART RAYMOND, Westminster, President,
 JESSE ALLEN, Oakham, Secretary,
 G. S. GRAHAM, Holden, Treasurer,
 R. G. MAREAN, Hubbardston,
 H. H. PIKE, Paxton,
 D. W. BAKER, Phillipston,
 I. E. PRATT, Princeton,
 W. H. MAYNARD, Rutland,
 CALEB W. DAY, Royalston,
 CHARLES H. LEATHE, Templeton,

Board of Management.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

DR.

Balance on hand,	\$19 33	
Annual appropriation,	50 00	
Fines and sale of cards,	3 64	
	<hr/>	\$72 97

CR.

Paid for care of library,	\$25 00	
Exchange of books for Coldbrook,	25 00	
For new books,	7 25	
Express and postage,	1 76	
Cash on hand,	13 96	
	<hr/>	\$72 97

Present number of volumes in library,	1243
Added during the year,	63
Circulation during the year,	1870
Number of persons taking out books,	140
Largest number charged in one day,	51
Smallest number charged in day,	17

The interest in the library increases year by year, the circulation having been larger the past year than any previous years. A complete set of "Abbott's Histories" has been presented to the library by an unknown friend. The pictures loaned by the Woman's Education Association have been greatly enjoyed.

FRANK E. DAVIS,	} <i>Library</i>
MINNIE L. WOODIS,	
JESSE ALLEN,	

Trustees.

REPORT OF CEMETERY COMMITTEE.

DR.

To town funds,	\$17 55	
Income of G. H. Gould fund,	5 38	
From D. H. Dean,	5 00	
	—————	\$27 93

CR.

Paid C. H. Trowbridge, work on old cemetery,	\$10 25	
Same, work on southwest cemetery,	60	
F. E. Reed, work on old cemetery,	6 32	
F. S. Conant, tomb lock,	38	
Jesse Allen, work on E. Dean lot,	5 50	
Cash on hand, -	4 88	
	—————	\$27 93

The old cemetery has been put in good condition, grave-stones reset, brush cut and the fence repaired and painted. There seems to be a question as to how much the town has to do with the other cemeteries of the town. It is suggested that the various cemetery associations call meetings, and, if thought best, take such action as may be necessary to give the town full and entire care of all the cemeteries in the town.

D. R. DEAN, WM. S. CRAWFORD, JESSE ALLEN,	}	Cemetery Committee.
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REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

STATISTICS.

Number of pupils enrolled,	89
Average membership.	81.2
Average attendance,	75.5
Per cent. of attendance.	93.1

APPROPRIATIONS AND OTHER RESOURCES.

Support of schools,	\$1200 00
Appropriation for school superintendent,	50 00
State return for superintendent of schools,	250 00
Received from dog tax refunded,	156 24
State school fund,	364 00
Education of state children,	34 00
Education of Boston children,	175 00
High school tuition refunded,	33 50
Sale of school supplies,	3 91
	<hr/>
	\$2266 65.

SALARIES.

Superintendent H. J. Jones,	\$300 00
Florence E. Bothwell,	320 00
Minnie M. Mellen,	320 00
Blanche Packard,	286 00
Althea Russell,	278 00
Mrs. Minnie G. Woodis.	138 00
Mary J. Foley,	80 00
	<hr/>
	\$1722 00

TRANSPORTATION.

John H. Keep,	\$70 00
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SUPPLIES.

Supplies,	\$147 29
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FUEL.

P. O'Donnell,	\$15 00
Cheney Bothwell,	7 50
Parker Lumber Co.,	9 50
L. P. Bushnell,	20 00
H. D. Bullard,	20 00
Alfred Woodis,	2 00
P. McGreevey,	20 00
W. W. Russell,	20 00
	———— \$114 00

CARE OF HOUSES.

Harry R. Loring,	\$41 65
Edwin Bullard,	9 90
LeRoy Sanders,	4 75
Morton Butterfield,	9 00
	———— \$65 30

REPAIRS.

L. S. Green,	\$ 50
W. S. Crawford,	3 35
C. H. Trowbridge,	9 50
W. R. Dean,	10 88
Mrs. Kate Gueley,	45
W. W. Russell,	75
F. E. Reed,	9 07
	———— \$34 50

TUITION.

Town of Rutland,	\$13 50
“ Barre,	20 00
“ North Brookfield,	80 00
	———— \$113 50

INSURANCE.

Frank Smith & Son,	\$17 50
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SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Jesse Allen, services,	\$34 68	
Mrs. Minnie L. Woodis, services,	12 00	
	————	\$46 68
Total,		<u>\$2330 77</u>

 ROLL OF HONOR.

The pupils named below were neither absent nor tardy for the number of terms specified:

CENTER SCHOOLS.

ONE TERM—Alice Yeo, Karah Payne, Marion Payne, Blanche Yeo, Leroy Burt, Jane McGreevey, Mary McGreevey, Nellie Gilboy.

TWO TERMS—Orvis Banks, Israel Sachs, John Donovan, Irna Clifford, Mildred Burt.

THREE TERMS—Abraham Sachs, Alice Loring, Eva Allen.

SOUTH SCHOOL.

ONE TERM—Frank Bartlett.

TWO TERMS—Florence Draper, May Robinson, John Robinson, George Dovins, Walter Troville.

WEST SCHOOL.

ONE TERM—Annie Gaffney, Catherine O'Donnell, Edwin Bullard, Matthew Scott.

TWO TERMS—Daniel O'Donnell.

THREE TERMS—Alice Bullard, Mary O'Donnell, Francis Gaffney, James Kenney, Frederic Kenney.

COLDBROOK SCHOOL.

ONE TERM—Fannie Needham, Morton Butterfield.

TWO TERMS—Evelyn Cody, Leroy Munroe.

THREE TERMS—Marion Winslow.

Respectfully submitted,

JESSE ALLEN,

MINNIE L. WOODIS,

H. W. LINCOLN,

School Committee.

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

This certifies that I have examined and approved the accounts of the selectmen, overseers of poor, school committee, road commissioner, tax collector, treasurer, library trustees and cemetery committee, and have found them to be correct.

Yours respectfully,

JOHN P. DAY, Jr.,

Auditor.

TREE WARDEN'S REPORT.

The past year there has been set out a large number of rock maples near the village of Oakham, and in the village of Coldbrook Springs several elm trees. It is a satisfaction to the warden to know that the people are beginning to appreciate the law in regard to the shade trees in the highway; many are cutting the brush and poorer trees, giving those left a better chance to grow. There are a few persons who care nothing for shade trees, even after they are spiked. Such persons, no doubt, are ignorant of the law in regard to cutting spiked trees. Attention is again called to the penalty provided by law for cutting or injuring any shade tree—\$5.00 to \$100.00 for each offence, and it is made the duty of the warden to enforce all provisions of the law.

Appropriated by the town,	\$25 00
Expenditures,	\$22 88

Respectfully,

C. H. TROWBRIDGE,

Tree Warden.

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen of the Town of Oakham:

We, the undersigned members of the Soldiers' Union, desire to place the piano in Memorial hall in the custody of the selectmen of Oakham, trusting a suitable price may be charged for the use of it to keep it in repair:

Signed: George W. Stone, James Sheern, Horace M. Green,
Geo. Duffy, J. E. Stone, G. M. Dean, M. J. Kennon.

The above was received August 2, 1902. The board voted at that time to accept the custody of the piano as requested, and would make the following report for the year ending March 1, 1903:

RECEIPTS.

From Y. P. S. C. E., Aug. 2, 1902,	\$0 25
A. C. Angus, Aug. 19, 1902,	25
O. V. I. S., Aug. 27, 1902,	25
Same, evening of Aug. 27,	75
Farmers' club, Oct. 22, 1902,	25
Henry Cummings, Jan. 7, 1903,	75
Same, Jan. 21, 1903,	75
Walter Clifford, Jan. 23, 1903,	25
Same, Jan. 31, 1903,	25
Same, Feb. 7, 1903,	25
Y. P. S. C. E., Feb. 10, 1903,	25
Walter Clifford, Feb. 14, 1903,	25
Same, Feb. 21, 1903,	25
Same, Feb. 28, 1903,	25
	—— \$5 00

EXPENDITURES.

Paid G. H. Davis, for tuning,	\$2 50
Balance in treasury,	2 50
	—— \$5 00

FRANK S. CONANT, } *Selectmen*
HARRY B. PARKER, } *of*
CARLOS P. HILL. } *Oakham.*

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT FOR 1902.

BIRTHS.

Jan. 7, Son (Samuel Walter) to John and Elsie Tucker.
 Feb. 20, Daughter (Dorothy) to David and Martha McDougal.
 Sept. 20, Son (Edward Eugene) to William and Mary Ann Gaffney.
 Nov. 16, Son (Albert Merton) to George A. and Maud Briggs.
 Nov. 23, Daughter (Iva Catherine) to Edmund and Catherine Cody.
 Nov. 26, Son (Ralph Franklin) to John and Grace Keep.

MARRIAGES.

Feb. 6, Benjamin H. Robbins to Gertrude J. Needham.
 Apr. 12, Ira N. Boutwell to Cora E. Lucier.
 June 5, Thomas C. Gaffney to Catherine Whitney.
 Oct. 9, Frank W. Grimes to Catherine L. Bullard.
 Oct. 22, John F. Leyden to Emma Langevin.
 Oct. 27, Edward L. Needham to Esther L. Clark.

DEATHS.

	YRS.	MOS.	DAYS.
Jan. 18, Timothy N. Fobes,	81	6	6
Jan. 30, John Glynn,	89	0	0
March 4, James C. Allen,	58	9	16
March 6, Luther Marsh,	79	7	21
May 3, Roxana B. Monroe,	86	7	0
June 18, Simon O. Butler,	83	2	19
Aug. 26, Martha S. Ash,	69	6	1
Nov. 11, Elizabeth W. Burt,	79	0	0
Nov. 21, Joel Bullard,	65	4	15
Nov. 25, Michael Gaffney,	80	0	0
Average age $77\frac{1}{5}$ years.			

BURIED IN TOWN.

April 12.	Maria L. Fuller,	81	11	21
May 26.	Mary Haskell,	78	0	0
June 3.	Charles Hubbard,	73	0	0
Nov. 28.	John N. Morse,	56	10	8
30.	Grace L. Morse,	28	6	28
Dec. 12.	Martin H. Maynard,	55	4	25

Number of voters—Male, 153. Female, 12.

Number of dogs licensed, 75. Male, 64. Female, 11.

JESSE ALLEN, *Town Clerk.*

WARRANT FOR TOWN MEETING.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

WORCESTER, SS.

To William S. Crawford, or either of the constables of the town of Oakham, in the County of Worcester,

GREETING :

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Oakham, qualified to vote in elections and in town affairs, to meet at the town hall, known as "Memorial Hall," on Monday, the sixth day of April next, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to act on the following articles, to wit :

Article 1st. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

Article 2d. To hear the annual report of the several town officers and act thereon.

Article 3d. To bring in their votes for three Selectmen, three Assessors, three Overseers of the Poor, Collector of Taxes, Treasurer, three Fence Viewers, six Constables, Tree Warden and Auditor for one year. One School Committee, Library Trustee, Town Clerk and Cemetery Committee for three years. Also, to vote "Yes" or "No" in answer to the question, "Shall license be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this town?" all on one ballot. Ballot to be folded as received, when presented for deposit in the ballot box. The polls to be opened at ten o'clock in the forenoon and may be closed at two o'clock in the afternoon.

Article 4th. To choose all necessary town officers and committees for the ensuing year not required to be elected by ballot.

Article 5th. To see what compensation the town will allow their Treasurer and Collector.

Article 6th. To see if the town will raise and appropriate any money for the relief of poor and needy soldiers, as required under Chapter 298, Section 1 and 2 of the Acts and Resolves of the year 1889.

Article 7th. To see if the town will raise and appropriate money for bonding their officials.

Article 8th. To see what compensation the town will allow for men and teams in repairing highways and opening roads for ensuing year.

Article 9th. To raise such sums of money as may be necessary to defray town charges for the ensuing year, and make appropriations for the same.

Article 10th. To see if the town will authorize the treasurer, with approval of the selectmen, to borrow such sums of money in anticipation of taxes as may be necessary for the ensuing year.

Article 11th. To see if the town will accept the list of jurors as prepared by the selectmen.

Article 12th. To determine the manner of collecting taxes the ensuing year.

Article 13th. To see if the town will employ some person to care for the Town Hall and ring bell for the ensuing year, or pass any vote relative thereto.

Article 14th. To see if the town will abate any taxes that may be presented for abatement.

Article 15th. To determine the manner of supporting paupers the year ensuing.

Article 16th. To see if the town will provide for lighting the street lamps the ensuing year, or pass any vote relative thereto.

Article 17th. To see if the town will appoint some person or persons as agents to prosecute and defend all suits that may be brought for or against the town for the ensuing year.

Article 18th. To see if the town will raise and appropriate a sum of money for copying and indexing the old records of the town of births, marriages and deaths, or pass any vote relative thereto.

Article 19th. To hear the report of the committee chosen under Article 7th of the town warrant of April 1st, 1901, and to act thereon.

Article 20th. To see if the town will vote to appropriate the B. P. Clark legacy towards the purchase of a town "clock," the said clock to be placed in the steeple of the Congregational church, and to choose a committee to carry the same into effect, or pass any vote relative thereto.

Article 21st. To see if the town will appropriate a sum of money to be used for the purpose of helping to erect a monument in memory of the patriotism and valor of the men of Worcester County in the war for the Union, the said monument to be erected in front of the County Court House, at Worcester, or pass any vote relative thereto.

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting up three attested copies thereof, one at each of the Post Offices, and one at the Congregational meeting house, in said town, seven days, at least, before the time of holding said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this eleventh day of March, in the year one thousand nine hundred and three.

FRANK S. CONANT,	} <i>Selectmen</i> of <i>Oakham.</i>
HARRY B. PARKER,	
CARLOS P. HILL,	

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Superintendent of Schools

FOR

The Central Worcester District.

TOWNS:

Holden, Oakham, Paxton, Rutland,

Worcester County, Mass.

March, 1903.

THE CENTRAL WORCESTER DISTRICT.

The district was formed July 16, 1900. The services and salary of the superintendent are shared as follows: Holden, five-tenths; Oakham, two-tenths; Paxton, one-tenth; and Rutland, two-tenths. The superintendent's year begins Aug. 1. Thirty-three teachers are employed in thirty-one schools. The chairman of the joint committee is Jesse Allen of Oakham, and the secretary is Mrs. Marion E. Warren of Holden. The names of the members of the various committees, with the expiration of their respective terms, are shown below :

HOLDEN.

						Term Expires
James A. Holden, chairman,	-	-	-	-	-	1903
Mrs. Martha E. Graham,	-	-	-	-	-	1903
T. Walter Howe,	-	-	-	-	-	1904
Mrs. Marion E. Warren, secretary,	-	-	-	-	-	1904
Mrs. Addie M. Holden,	-	-	-	-	-	1905
William J. Powers,	-	-	-	-	-	1905

OAKHAM.

						Term Expires
Jesse Allen, chairman,	-	-	-	-	-	1903
H. W. Lincoln,	-	-	-	-	-	1904
Mrs. Minnie L. Woodis, secretary,	-	-	-	-	-	1905

PAXTON.

						Term Expires
Mrs. C. F. Flint,	-	-	-	-	-	1904
Lewis S. Clapp, chairman,	-	-	-	-	-	1905
Mrs. E. P. Keep, secretary,	-	-	-	-	-	1906

RUTLAND.

						Term Expires
William C. Temple, secretary,	-	-	-	-	-	1903
Dr. David P. Butler, chairman,	-	-	-	-	-	1904
Dennis E. Smith,	-	-	-	-	-	1905

ANNUAL REPORT.

To the School Committees of Holden, Oakham, Paxton, and Rutland:

I herewith present the third annual report of the superintendent of schools for the Central Worcester District, and ask the attention of the committees and the citizens of the several towns to its contents. As in former reports, subjects of interest to the district as a whole are first presented, other matters being treated later under the heading, "The Towns in Particular."

In my second report, I described in some detail the various activities which employ the time and energies of your superintendent. The year now closed has been filled with similar activities. Nearly all the school days have been spent in the school-rooms, the time being divided in the proportion specified on the preceding page. Evenings, Saturdays, and all but four weeks of the school vacations have been largely devoted to the various duties of the position, aside from that of school visitation.

Like the previous years of my work as your superintendent, the one covered by this report has been made very pleasant by the good will of the thirty-one groups of children met twice each month, by the loyal co-operation of my fellow workers in the schools, by the confidence and support of able committees, and by the kindness of the people of the towns.

ATTENDANCE.

The tables here inserted show the facts of attendance in the various schools by terms. The "Summary of Attendance" shows the attendance of the year by towns. Comparing this

STATISTICAL TABLES.

HOLDEN.

SCHOOLS	TEACHERS	TERMS, 1902-'03	No. Weeks in Term	Average Membership	Average Attendance	Per Cent. of Attendance	Per Cent. for Year	No. Cases of Tardiness
High School.....	A. K. Learned, Prin. Marion E. Bascom, Assistant	Spring..	11	39.6	35.3	90.0	89.6	10
		Fall	16	46.5	41.5	90.0		10
		Winter .	12	47.0	41.7	88.7		11
Center, Grammar. {	Alma M. Atwell	Spring..	12	26.0	23.0	88.4	89.7	7
		Fall	16	33.0	29.0	87.8		37
		Winter .	8	28.0	26.0	92.8		9
Center, Primary .. {	Margery A. Rice.....	Spring..	12	32.5	28.8	88.6	86.5	64
		Fall	16	27.1	23.7	87.5		45
		Winter .	8	27.2	22.7	83.4		24
Jefferson, Higher . {	M. Bessie Tidd	Spring..	12	16.7	15.9	95.7	89.7	17
		Fall	16	20.5	20.1	93.5		55
		Winter .	8	21.0	16.8	80.0		26
Jefferson, Room 4 . {	Clara K. Bascom	Spring..	12	28.4	26.1	92.1	87.0	40
		Fall	16	35.9	33.0	91.7		58
		Winter .	8	30.4	23.5	77.2		27
Jefferson, Room 3 . {	Elizabeth Hoxie.....	Spring..	12	38.8	35.3	91.0	85.7	32
		Fall	16	40.4	33.7	86.0		28
		Winter .	8	39.2	31.6	80.0		26
Jefferson, Room 2 . {	Esther C. Hendricks .	Spring..	12	36.0	34.1	94.8	84.5	22
		Fall	16	28.1	24.9	88.1		12
		Winter .	8	25.4	18.3	71.7		18
Jefferson, Room 1 . {	Mary L. Gove	Spring..	12	31.1	28.5	91.6	79.4	4
		Fall	16	29.7	25.5	85.5		9
		Winter .	8	18.6	11.4	61.2		17
Chaffin, Grammar. {	Florence L. Johnson.	Spring..	12	33.8	31.9	93.5	91.4	6
		Fall	16	37.9	34.4	90.7		4
		Winter .	7	34.1	30.7	90.0		3
Chaffin, Primary.. {	Mabel C. Reid	Spring..	12	27.2	25.3	92.9	87.2	9
		Fall	16	37.4	33.6	87.9		8
		Winter .	8	35.5	28.8	80.8		6
Quinapoxet, { Grammar {	Alice Frye	Spring..	12	28.9	26.5	91.0	87.7	30
		Fall	16	31.0	28.1	89.0		17
		Winter .	8	29.4	24.5	83.0		11
Quinapoxet, { Primary {	Lillian A. Warner....	Spring..	12	27.9	24.4	86.8	83.9	10
		Fall	16	23.4	20.7	86.1		13
		Winter .	8	23.7	18.8	78.9		20
North Woods	Margaret G. Fleming.	Spring..	12	14.8	14.3	96.6	92.8	1
		Fall	16	20.5	19.3	94.3		29
		Winter .	8	19.9	17.5	87.6		12
Springdale	Florence Kirby.....	Spring..	12	21.0	18.8	88.0	84.7	1
		Fall	16	23.0	20.1	86.8		30
		Winter .	8	21.3	16.8	79.2		2
Dawson.....	Catherine E. Crowe ..	Spring..	12	18.7	17.8	94.5	86.5	3
		Fall	16	18.8	16.7	88.0		8
		Winter .	8	16.2	13.0	76.5		13
South.....	Sadie I. Packard	Spring..	12	23.2	22.7	98.4	95.2	9
		Fall	16	21.1	19.9	94.8		18
		Winter .	8	21.7	20.1	92.3		20
Unionville.....	Ellen R. Bohan.....	Spring..	12	18.3	18.0	95.1	85.5	9
		Fall	16	21.4	21.0	90.2		19
		Winter .	8	22.0	15.6	71.3		15

PAXTON.

SCHOOL	TEACHERS	TERMS, 1902-'03	No. Weeks in Term	Average Membership	Average Attendance	Per Cent. of Attendance	Per Cent. for Year	No. Cases of Tardiness
Grammar	Rachel W. Cornwell..	Spring ..	14	13.3	11.7	88.2	89.5	128
	Jennie R. Burnham ..	Fall	12	19.7	18.2	92.5		52
	Jennie R. Burnham ..	Winter..	7	18.6	16.4	87.6		48
Intermediate	M. Alice Converse....	Spring ..	14	19.9	18.2	91.4	88.4	44
	M. Alice Converse....	Fall	12	25.4	23.3	91.8		37
	M. Alice Converse....	Winter..	8	22.8	18.6	81.9		50
Primary	Lulu M. Baker.....	Spring ..	14	28.5	26.2	92.2	88.3	21
	Lulu M. Baker.....	Fall	12	30.6	28.0	91.2		36
	Lulu M. Baker.....	Winter..	8	25.1	20.5	81.5		32

RUTLAND.

High School	G. Harold Ellis, Prin.	Spring ..	12	27.8	23.8	85.7	86.1	28
	Edith L. Claffin,	Fall	12	35.8	32.6	90.4		57
	Assistant	Winter..	10	29.2	23.9	82.1		83
Center, Grammar.	Jennie R. Burnham ..	Spring ..	12	45.8	40.5	88.4	85.3	32
	Elrie P. Newcomb....	Fall	12	51.5	45.1	89.7		42
	Elrie P. Newcomb....	Winter..	8	45.8	34.9	77.9		19
Center, Intermediate }	Jennie B. Gilbert	Spring ..	12	37.3	32.2	86.0	80.0	93
	Bertha Gleason	Fall	12	44.0	37.7	85.3		124
	Bertha Gleason	Winter..	8	41.6	28.7	68.8		66
Center Primary ..	Annie M. Jenness	Spring ..	12	42.2	33.7	77.0	77.4	30
	Annie M. Jenness	Fall	12	47.1	41.7	88.3		59
	Annie M. Jenness	Winter..	8	39.3	26.5	67.0		60
North Rutland....	Grace E. Damon.....	Spring ..	12	33.2	27.3	82.7	84.3	112
	Mabelle Heald.....	Fall	12	33.1	30.1	91.0		27
	Mabelle Heald.....	Winter..	8	22.6	17.9	79.2		29
West Rutland	Lucy M. Grant.....	Spring ..	12	32.0	29.0	91.0	94.0	22
	Lucy M. Grant.....	Fall	12	35.0	34.0	97.0		10
	Lucy M. Grant.....	Winter..	8	35.0	33.0	94.0		12

OAKHAM.

Center, Grammar.	Florence E. Bothwell.	Spring ..	10	18.8	17.7	95.0	93.0	17
	Florence E. Bothwell.	Fall	11	21.2	20.2	93.0		10
	Florence E. Bothwell.	Winter..	11	20.5	18.2	91.0		50
Center, Primary..	Minnie M. Mellen	Spring ..	10	17.0	16.0	96.0	95.6	18
	Minnie M. Mellen	Fall	11	17.0	16.4	96.5		15
	Minnie M. Mellen	Winter..	11	14.3	13.5	94.3		12
Coldbrook	Lena R. Edmands....	Spring ..	10	9.0	8.8	98.0	94.3	1
	Blanche Packard	Fall	11	9.8	9.3	94.0		0
	Blanche Packard	Winter..	11	8.9	8.1	91.0		4
South	Blanche Packard	Spring ..	11	17.7	16.4	92.9	90.0	2
	Mrs. Minnie Woodis..	Fall	11	17.3	15.7	90.6		4
	Mrs. Minnie Woodis..	Winter..	5	16.0	14.0	87.5		4
West.....	Althea Russell	Spring ..	10	17.9	17.2	96.0	92.6	5
	Althea Russell	Fall	11	18.7	17.9	94.7		10
	Althea Russell	Winter..	11	19.5	17.0	87.2		11

SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCE.

	HOLDEN	OAKHAM	PAXTON	RUTLAND	Total
No. enrolled since September 1, 1902..	560	89	85	281	1015
Average membership for year	473.1	81.2	68	226.1	848.1
Average attendance for year	417.2	75.5	60.4	190.9	744.0
Per cent. of attendance for year	89.3	93.1	88.7	85.1	89.1
Per cent. of attendance for last year..	90.0	93.5	86.6	87.6	89.4

summary with the one of last year, there will be noted an increase of all the items but one in the "Total" column, though some of the towns show losses. The "per cent. of attendance" is slightly decreased in all the towns except Paxton. It is well to realize the meaning of this item. The average per cent. for the district, 89.1, means that the equivalent of more than one day of school in every two weeks is lost on account of the absence of pupils. Some of this loss is, of course, unavoidable, but I am convinced that much of it might be prevented by due care in the matter on the part of parents. The teachers are instructed to ascertain the reason for every case of absence, and to record in the register whether the case is excusable or not. The reasons rendered confirm fully the words of Secretary Hill:

There are scores of reasons assigned for the non-attendance of children at school that cannot, in any fairness, make the absence necessary. They are reasons that parents or pupils may readily overcome by a little extra pains, a little greater sturdiness, a little more self-denial, a little greater forethought, a little higher conception of duty.

The indifference of many parents to the value of school privileges has led to the passage of compulsory attendance laws. The law of Massachusetts includes the following provisions:

Every child between seven and fourteen years of age shall attend some public day school in the city or town in which he resides during the entire time the public day schools are in session, subject to such

exceptions as to children, places of attendance and schools as are provided for in section three of chapter forty-two, and sections three, five and six of this chapter. The superintendent of schools, or, if there is no superintendent of schools, the school committee, or teachers acting under authority of said superintendent or committee, may excuse cases of necessary absence. . . . Every person having under his control a child as described in this section shall cause him to attend school as herein required, and if he fails for five day sessions, or ten half-day sessions within any period of six months while under such control, to cause such child, whose physical or mental condition is not such as to render his attendance at school harmful or impracticable, so to attend school, he shall, upon complaint of the truant officer and conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of more than twenty dollars.

I have the names of fifty-six children reported by the teachers as absent for more than ten half-day sessions within a period of six months, without a reason which makes the absence necessary. The parents of such children are plainly subjects for the action of the courts.

The "Roll of Honor," printed in the several town reports, shows the appreciation of many parents and pupils of the benefit of regularity in school attendance. Due recognition should also be made of the many pupils who are equally faithful, but whose necessary absence caused the omission of their names from the list. In fact, it is a small minority of parents and pupils who are seriously delinquent in the matter under consideration. It is for this minority that the compulsory attendance laws are framed. I strongly recommend the enforcement of these laws.

FINANCIAL FACTS.

The following table, compiled from data at hand, will be found to contain some interesting figures :

	HOLDEN	OAKHAM	PAXTON	RUTLAND
1. Valuation of town	\$1,310,479	\$330,025	\$302,937	\$669,332
2. Valuation per child of average membership	\$2,769.98	\$4,064.35	\$4,454.95	\$2,961.22
3. Raised by taxation for schools last year	\$8,000	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$3,750
4. Taxation for schools per thousand of valuation	\$6.10	\$3.63	\$3.96	\$5.60
5. Taxation cost per child of aver. membership per year	\$16.89	\$14.78	\$17.65	\$16.58
6. No. of school days in year . .	180	160	170	160
7. Taxation cost per child of aver. membership per day	\$.093	\$.092	\$.104	\$.103

The best test of the financial ability of a town with regard to school expenditures is the valuation behind each child of the average membership of its schools. The average valuation for each pupil in the average membership of the public schools of the State is \$7,319. Comparing the amounts opposite the second item in the table with this sum, it will be seen that our towns are comparatively poor.

The average rate of local taxation for the support of schools in the State is \$3.70 on each thousand dollars of valuation. Comparing the figures opposite the fourth item, it is seen that all but one of our towns are taxed at a higher rate.

The average local taxation cost of support for each child in the average membership for the State is \$27.04. Our towns get along with the modest sums set opposite the fifth item.

The schooling of the average child in Massachusetts costs \$0.14 per day. A Paxton child goes to school in the morning, is furnished his books, paper and all other needed material, and is instructed during the day by a competent teacher. He has cost the town, when he returns home at night, \$0.104. A pupil in any other of our towns costs a few mills less per day. And yet there are a few people among us who raise the question of a reduction of school expenses!

The problem of the equalization of the school burdens of the towns of the Commonwealth still puzzles the authorities. In the words of Secretary Hill, "There are extremes, anomalies, incongruities, indeed, in a state policy that is admirable in the main, but they none the less merit correction." Our towns, however, are to be congratulated on the fact that, under the present plan of distribution of State funds, their share of those funds is so generous. The table above shows that the local taxation cost of our schools is not excessive. As to the possible value of what is received in return for the expenditure, let me refer to the quotation from State Superintendent Schaeffer in my last report, and also to the following paragraph from him:

Commissioner W. T. Harris collected statistics showing that in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which gives every child an average schooling of seven years of two hundred days each, the average daily earnings of the people are 33 cents in excess of the earnings for the rest of the United States, which gives the child but four years (a little more) of schooling. For the entire State of Massachusetts this excess amounts to \$250,000,000 annually. In the days when the present wage-earners were at school in Massachusetts, she spent about ten millions upon her schools. Now, if you can put \$10,000,000 into brains and get a return of \$250,000,000 in increased earnings—\$25 for every dollar invested—who will dispute the proposition that money spent in the right education of the people is the best investment of public funds ever made?

THE TEACHER IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM.

The supreme fact should not be overlooked, however, that the interests of the State are indissolubly bound up with the interests of its children, that these interests are too vast and sacred to be trifled with, and that they demand for their protection and promotion the very best of teaching service. Now, granting all the exceptions that may be cited, it remains true that trained teachers render by far the better service. The State for sixty years has pressed for such service—it opened its first normal school in 1839. It maintains today, at large expense, ten normal schools. Its prime motive in aiding so many of its smaller towns is to enable them to engage this superior service. The State pays half the salaries of all the district superintendents, it contributes a special sum of money to every superintendency district, it requires every town, every city, to employ a superintendent of schools; and all to make more effective, if it can, the teaching in the public schools.—*Secretary Hill, Sixty-fifth Report.*

Your superintendent recognizes the truth so forcibly stated by our honored secretary. On the character, ability, and skill of the teacher mainly depends the success of the schools. The critical question concerns what goes on when the teacher stands before her class. To the degree in which she is then able to command the attention of the pupils, to arouse their interest, to call forth their energies, and direct those energies into educative work, to that degree will the ends of the school be reached. To assist in the higher development of such ability is the supreme and most difficult function of the superintendent. By plans for the work to be required, by personal instruction, by illustration of principles and methods at my visits, by encouragement and suggestion, by kindly but plain personal criticism, by the arrangement of teachers' meetings, by the direction of the teachers' reading along professional lines, and by all other means available, I have tried to increase the effectiveness of the teaching. In the pursuit of this end, however, I recognize fully the absolute necessity of willing and intelligent endeavor on the part of the individual teacher. It is impossible to *impart* knowledge, skill, or power to another, whether that other be a pupil or teacher. These results *grow* in the individual as the result of that individual's own activities. The provision of opportunity and stimulus, and the direction of aroused energies into the most fruitful channels, form the main work alike of the teacher with regard to her pupils and of the superintendent with regard to his teachers.

In accordance with this idea it is intended to give full liberty to the individuality of the teacher within the limits of established educational principles. It is assumed that the teacher has brains and she is expected to use them.

The superintendent's ideas are further expressed in a circular sent to teachers recently, and which was made the basis for discussion in a teachers' meeting:

Intelligence and earnestness, native tact and power of control, genial manners and sympathy with childhood, all these qualities are of the utmost importance to the success of the teacher. Care should be taken to maintain and strengthen these natural personal endowments. Supplementary to them, special professional study is neces-

sary to the highest success. Normal school attendance is desirable as aiding in such study, but every teacher, whether normal courses have been taken or not, should make it a regular part of her business to *study* in professional lines. Some of these lines are indicated below :]

1. *The Children Themselves.* Our work is ministering to the growth of children. Knowing the children is a fundamental necessity. Attentive, sympathetic observation of individuals in the school, at play, and in their homes, yields many practical results, not the least of which is preparation to understand and appreciate books on psychology.

2. *The Subjects of the Course of Study.* Each of these may furnish nutriment for the mind of the teacher as well as that of the pupil. Full, accurate, and *fresh* knowledge of the subject taught is one of the greatest needs in instruction, and one of the strongest aids in management. It begets confidence in the teacher on the part of pupils, and "confidence is the sure basis of cheerful obedience." The special matter of the text-books used by the pupils should be so mastered by the teacher that she may be independent of the book in class exercises. The general plan of the book should be comprehended and usually followed in instruction. Authors' prefaces and suggestions to teachers should be carefully considered. A growing knowledge of the subjects as sources of educative material will characterize the progressive teacher.

3. *Educational Books.* Pedagogical experience and scientific study have settled some things. Books like Dr. White's "School Management," and the same author's "Art of Teaching," record established conclusions. By the study of such books the teacher may greatly lessen the high cost of tuition in the school of experience.

4. *Educational Periodicals.* They record current thought and practice, and many give helpful details for immediate use. Every teacher should read one or more.

5. *History in the Making.* Relating the school and its work to the present life of the world should be a distinct aim of the teacher. Hence the teacher must keep in touch with current events. The newspaper must be read, with judicious skipping. Current magazines should be scanned for matter valuable professionally.

Thus much as to strictly professional studies. But so great a factor in teaching is *personality* that any reading or study which refreshes the spirit, enlarges the sympathies, or enriches the mind will result in increased professional power.

Several questions designed to bring out the facts regarding the experience and professional study of our teachers were later answered by all our force. From the answers it appears that length of experience varies from five months to forty

years; that one half of the teachers entered on their work with no professional preparation whatever; that only seven are normal graduates; and that all the remainder had some preparatory training in normal schools, city training classes, or college courses.

The answers to questions in regard to professional reading are exceedingly suggestive, but it will suffice here to say that the teachers are commendably responsive to the superintendent's efforts in this matter. It is particularly encouraging to find from the answers that all agree with the statements of the circular quoted above, and that every teacher considers herself as *growing* in efficiency, an estimate which the superintendent approves.

The salaries of our teachers below the high school range from \$256 to \$432 per year. Consequently, "resigned to accept a better position," is a frequent phrase in the latter part of this report. One of the features most discouraging to committees and superintendent is the lack of the funds necessary to retain, in many cases, our growing, ambitious teachers.

The teacher's work, with all its pleasant features, involves large nervous expenditure, and has many perplexities and trials of patience. The management of a very few children in the home is frequently a task which disturbs the serenity of father and mother. And yet the teacher is expected, rightly enough, to secure cheerful obedience, orderly conduct, and attention to business, on the part of large groups of children. In the performance of the task the teacher needs all the cheer, encouragement, and practical assistance which parents can render. I have urged upon teachers, when beginning work in a new school, to endeavor at once to establish cordial relations with the parents of the children, and by no means to let the acquaintance begin when some occasion for complaint has arisen. I would also remind parents that the highest usefulness of the teacher to their children depends upon intimate acquaintance with them, and upon the support she has from the home.

Parents should not wait until a call at the school is made necessary by some friction which has been discovered, but

should do their part toward the early formation of the cordial relations previously mentioned. The best results are possible in education only when teacher and parent work together in the harmony born of mutual understanding and regard.

THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAM.

"Orthography, reading, writing, the English language and grammar, geography, arithmetic, drawing, the history of the United States, physiology and hygiene, and good behavior," are the subjects required by law to be taught in the public schools of the Commonwealth. Such other subjects as the school committee consider expedient are permitted.

The proper distribution of the limited school time among the subjects, especially in our "multigraded" schools, is one of the most serious problems of school economy. Each teacher has this year made a special attempt to prepare a well-balanced daily program, in which the number of minutes to be devoted to each subject, including both study and recitation, is definitely specified. The ratio of the time given to each subject per week to the whole weekly school time, has been calculated and reported to the superintendent.

These reports show that "the three R's," and the other standard utilities, are not being neglected, but are receiving their full share of time. The "enrichment" of the elementary course by the introduction of new subjects and new phases of old subjects has certainly not gone to extremes in our schools, however it may be with others which are charged with devotion to "fads."

Hand-work in school, nature study, and the reading of standard literature, have passed the "fad" stage, and are now regarded as solid and valuable additions to the school course, to be correlated in sensible ways with each other and with the older work. Our teachers are giving attention to these lines with increasingly valuable results.

In reading, we are trying to extend the use of the public libraries by taking sets of books to the schools at a distance, and otherwise to develop a taste for the good things in print.

Our exhibits during the coming term will show considerable advance in the line of hand-work. In nature study, we are trying to shape our practice in accordance with the ideals of Dr. C. F. Hodge, of Clark University. Dr. Hodge regards the subject as "learning those things in nature that are best worth knowing, to the end of doing those things that make life most worth living," and says that for elementary study "we must select those things that stand in fundamental associations with life and about which the children can find something worth while to do."

This last statement really expresses the growing ideal among educators in regard to the selection of matter to be taught from all the great fields of knowledge. It is the ideal of your superintendent, an ideal imperfectly realized, it is true, that the matter and the method of all school instruction should be mainly determined by the consideration of what will best enable the pupil *to live* and *to enjoy living*, as a worthy citizen of our democracy.

TEACHERS' MEETINGS.

In September, an Institute was held at Jefferson, under the direction of the State Board of Education. All the teachers of the district attended, together with many others from neighboring towns. Hon. Frank A. Hill, secretary of the Board; Messrs. MacDonald, Prince and Bailey, agents of the Board; Misses Allen and Bragg of the Fitchburg and Lowell normal schools, respectively; and Miss Lovejoy of Malden, were the speakers. This meeting proved of much practical help to our teachers.

In October occurred the annual meeting of the Worcester County Teachers' Association. Nearly all our teachers attended, as usual.

As in former years, I have planned to hold five meetings in each town during the year, devoting a half day to each. Our teachers being so widely separated, it has been considered wise to limit the meetings to the number mentioned. The plan of each meeting includes work by the teachers in prepa-

ration, active participation in the meeting, and further study of the topics after the meeting. "The Teacher as a Student," and "A Study of Interest" were the topics for the last two meetings. "Waste in School Work" will be considered at the meetings in April. As usual, all persons interested are invited to meet with the teachers.

PATRONS' DAY.

This day was observed in all the schools during the months of May and June, in accordance with the plan outlined in my last report. In Oakham, the main features of the day were combined with the established custom of "Examination Day." Special invitations were sent to every parent and to many others to visit the school on the afternoon of a particular day. At the school, a programme of exercises selected from the usual day's work was presented. This programme aimed to show fair samples of the regular teaching and recitation in the leading school subjects, and also to show the general spirit and method of the school management. A careful observer could easily discover the merits and defects of the school. As a further means of promoting thorough acquaintance with the quality of the work being done, specimens of the pupils' drawings, written papers, and other handiwork were displayed in a form planned for easy inspection. A part of each pupil's work was mounted on a large sheet of cardboard, which he was afterward allowed to take home. After the early closing of the session, and the inspection of the exhibit, the visitors were invited to participate in an informal conference on matters of common interest to patrons and teachers.

The teachers' monthly report includes a mention of the number of visits received during the month. The reports for October, 1902, a favorable month for comparison, show a total of 171 visits. But for the month which included Patrons' Day the total was 825. It will be seen, therefore, that the attempt to bring together the schools and their patrons for the purpose of mutual acquaintance was fairly successful. The attempt will be repeated during the coming term, and it is

hoped that a much larger attendance may be secured. We expect to show that decided progress has been made during the year. Patrons are reminded, however, that the schools are theirs all the year round, and that visitors are gladly welcomed at any hour of every day.

THE TOWNS IN PARTICULAR.

HOLDEN.

Teachers.—The principal at Jefferson, the assistant in the high school, and the teachers at Dawson, Springdale, and North Woods resigned during the year, all but the latter to accept better educational positions.

The number of children in the Unionville district having increased and their location making transportation impracticable, the school there was reopened in April. The teacher secured resigned in October to accept a better position. All the new teachers are proving efficient.

It is intended to change the time for the annual election of teachers from the March meeting of the committee to the meeting held the first Monday in June, and hereafter to elect for the natural school year beginning in September and ending in June. In order to make the change, the elections in March this year will be for the spring term only.

Repairs.—The five rooms in the Jefferson building were much improved by kalsomining the walls in a proper tint, and by redressing the woodwork. The halls should receive a similar treatment during the coming year. The outside of the building is in need of paint, and some leaks in the roof demand attention.

The wornout furnace at Quinapoxet was replaced by a new one, which has done its work satisfactorily during the winter. The Quinapoxet building was also improved with new paint and paper.

The interior of the building at Unionville was renovated in preparation for the reopening of the school. The roof of this building will need new shingles during the coming year.

The Ninth Grade.—In September, 1901, all the ninth-grade pupils of the town, twenty-two in number, were placed in the high school building to be instructed by the high school teachers. The fact that the high school comprised but two regular classes for that year made this plan entirely feasible. It was designed in this way to secure a better preparation on the part of pupils for the regular high school work, and thus eventually to raise the standard of work done in the high school. The class pursued the work of the year with interest and good results, and every member returned in September, 1902, all but two to enter the high school, and these to repeat the ninth-grade work. Another ninth grade, comprising eighteen pupils, was gathered last September and is now pursuing its work with the three regular high school classes. The subjects pursued are arithmetic, grammar and composition, history, elementary physics, and drawing. The success of the present plan for the instruction of this grade would seem to justify making it permanent.

High School.—In accordance with the plan approved last year, a choice between a course of study including Latin, and a course without that subject, was offered the entering class in September. All chose the Latin course.

The new course, approved by the Committee in September, requires each pupil to take four subjects instead of three, as heretofore, besides drawing one day in the week. Thirty minutes are added to the former school day.

The small high school has unavoidable limitations. As Secretary Hill remarks, "Its work must be reduced to the simplest and most manageable forms." Even then, the work of the teachers is very difficult, and more than ordinary zeal, industry, and teaching power is required to secure results that compare favorably with those of the larger schools. The people of this community know the sterling qualities of the principal who has served them so efficiently for nearly twenty-three years. The scholarship and character of his assistant, a resident of the town, are also familiar to all. Both are deeply devoted to their work, and are in perfect accord with the committee and superintendent in the effort to make a course

of study at the Holden High School as broad and thorough as the conditions will permit.

There was no graduating class last year. In the place of the usual graduation exercises, a lecture was given by Rev. George L. Perrin, D.D., of Boston. There are nine pupils who expect to receive diplomas in June next. A graduating class is expected in 1904, but not in 1905, as no class entered in 1901. In 1906, the four regular high school classes will all be represented, and in that year the instruction of these classes and that of the ninth grade will make necessary the employment of a third teacher.

Miss Mabel E. Dickinson of Worcester continues her work as teacher of drawing, spending one day each week at the school. By special arrangement with the principal, Mrs. L. L. Holden of Worcester has given instruction in singing for a few weeks in the winter term, and under her direction a very creditable public concert was given on the evening of Feb. 27.

Attendance.—The South school retains the best record of attendance in the town, though this year it takes second place in the district. The attendance at Jefferson and Quinapoxet was decreased materially in the winter term by the prevalence of measles. The opening of the schools at the Centre for that term was delayed two weeks for the same cause, and the time will be made up in March.

One of the truant officers reports no calls from teachers for his services, though he has sent to school several children found on the street. The other officer has made eight visits at the request of teachers. The superintendent has made several calls on delinquent parents, when such calls could be made conveniently.

A Look Ahead.—I have taken occasion in a public address to suggest what I consider an altogether probable development of the future. Let me here put on record the suggestion. It is the provision at the Centre of a new school building, in a good location, of suitable size, and of a style not contrasting too much with the beautiful Damon Memorial. To this building, when the people provide it, will be carried

in comfortable conveyances the children of the three small schools nearest the Centre. All will then enjoy the benefits of a graded school in the most attractive surroundings. The development of the town which is expected to follow the advent of the electric railway may lead to an early realization of what is now only a pleasant vision.

OAKHAM.

Teachers.—Miss Lena R. Edmands resigned her position at Coldbrook in June to return to college. Miss Blanche Packard, who had taught the South school during the spring term, was appointed in her place. Mrs. Minnie G. Woodis was appointed to the South school, where she had formerly done good service for several years. No other changes occurred.

In December, Mrs. Woodis, Miss Russell, and Miss Packard were “specially examined,” as the required preliminary to an application to the Board of Education for an increase of salary, under the “exceptional ability” law. After an inspection of their schools by Mr. J. W. MacDonald, agent of the Board, the application was approved. Two dollars per week was then added to the salaries of each of the three teachers, and the amount will be refunded by the State. A similar application in the case of Miss Mellen was approved last year. The town is thus receiving from the State eight dollars per week to apply on teachers’ salaries, besides the fifty dollars per year received for the same purpose under the superintendency law. Both of these sums are in addition to its share of the State school fund under the general law.

The School Year.—The generous State aid which the town receives, it seems to me, should render practicable an addition of two weeks to the school year, which is now as short as the law allows. The average length of the school year in the State generally is nine months and six days, or one month and six days more than the legal requirement.

Apparatus.—The set of maps for the Centre Grammar room, recommended last year, has been purchased, and the globes for other rooms, also recommended, are provided for.

Repairs.—The interior of the “West Brick” is getting very dingy and dilapidated, and should be thoroughly renovated. Mending, paint and kalsomine will make this ancient building renew its youth.

Examination Day.—The closing day of every term has drawn a goodly number of parents and friends to the school, as usual. We wish the number of visitors on that day might be increased, and also that frequent visits during the term might be made. At the close of the spring term a special effort is made to show the nature and quality of the school activities by means of an exhibit of the pupils’ handiwork. The exhibit in the various schools last June was highly creditable, especially the one at the Centre. It is hoped that much improvement will be shown by the exhibit next June, and that many more parents and friends will inspect it.

Attendance.—The per cent. of attendance in the town for the year surpasses that of any other town in the district, as has been the case since the district was formed. The primary school at the Centre this year steps above the South school in Holden to the first place in the district, with a per cent. of 95.6. All the schools of Oakham stand at 90 per cent. or above. The truant officer has a sinecure in Oakham.

PAXTON.

Teachers.—The vacancy in the principalship caused by the retirement in June of Miss Rachel U. Cornwell was filled by the election of Miss Jennie R. Burnham, who had taught with marked success in an adjoining town. The wisdom of the committee in offering the increased salary required to secure Miss Burnham has been amply justified. Misses Baker and Converse continue their efficient service. Their salary is made ten dollars per week by the aid of the State grant, under the “exceptional ability” law, designed to aid small towns in securing and retaining good teachers.

Text Books.—The new series of Frye’s geographies, and the “Mother Tongue” series of language books have been adopted by the committee. These books, together with the Werner arithmetics, previously introduced, are proving satisfactory.

Repairs.—The new cement floor for the basement, laid during the summer, is much appreciated by teachers and pupils. Last year I mentioned two other very desirable improvements, both of them, like the basement floor, usually included in the contract for a finished building. They are the tinting of the walls and the provision of good blackboards. The latter is the more pressing need. The present boards consist of a covering of liquid slating on very rough plaster. An inspection of them will show how defective they are. I recommend placing on the walls a good quality of real slate, three and one-half feet wide. From a measurement of the surface and from prices obtained from responsible dealers, I estimate the expense at about \$120. Such blackboards are practically indestructible and are generally regarded as the cheapest in the end.

Attendance.—It is gratifying to report increased regularity of attendance. For the first year of my supervision the per cent. of attendance was 82.3; for the second, 86.6, and for this, the third, 88.7. But it should be remembered that the highest per cent. yet reached means a loss of more than one-ninth of the school expenditure. On the average through the year the town has failed to receive a return for the expense of one day in nine, on account of the absence of pupils. Much of this loss is due to the indifference of a few parents, and to the unsatisfactory service of one, at least, of those engaged to transport children. It is hoped that losses from these causes may be entirely obviated during the coming year.

RUTLAND.

Teachers. — Mr. Frank P. Ayer, principal of the High School; Miss Jennie R. Burnham, of the Centre Grammar School; Miss Jennie Gilbert, of the Centre Intermediate; and Miss Grace Damon, of North Rutland, resigned in June. In November, Miss Edith I. Brown, assistant in the High school, also resigned. Miss Gilbert resigned to enter a normal school, and all the others to accept better positions. The names of the new teachers will be found in the table of statistics. All but Miss Newcomb were

without experience. Mr. Ellis is a college graduate, and has spent a year in post-graduate study at Clark University, and has also done other graduate work. Miss Gleason holds a diploma from Mt. Holyoke, and Miss Claflin one from Smith. All of the new teachers are growing in efficiency through experience and study.

The High School.—A choice between the two courses of study printed in the report of last year was offered the students in September, and all chose the course with Latin. Three pupils were allowed to change to the English course later. The high school now includes only the first and second year classes, thirteen pupils in all. The eighth grade, the preparatory class, now numbering sixteen, is also taught by the high school teachers, as last year.

Ethel Blanche Thurston, Bessie Howe Bartlett, Ethel Maria Heald, and Henry Hall King were graduated June 19, 1902. All are now pursuing advanced studies in other schools.

Near the close of the year the class was called to mourn the sad death of one of its members, Miss Nola Dudley, a young lady of fine character and ability.

The State requires of the high school that it "shall be kept open for the benefit of all the inhabitants of the city or town for at least forty weeks, exclusive of vacations, in each year," and the law provides that the town's share of the income of the school fund shall be withheld, in case the town has not maintained its high school for at least thirty-six weeks. Rutland will now observe the law in this matter to a degree sufficient to escape the penalty, and will maintain its high school for thirty-six weeks. The eighth grade is this year offered the same length of schooling.

The law of Massachusetts further requires that every town with more than five hundred families shall maintain a high school, and that every other town shall either maintain a high school of its own or pay for the tuition of its properly qualified children in the high school of another town or city. The Legislature of 1902 made two changes in the high-school law which are of importance to the town of Rutland. One of these raised the limit of valuation under which a town is

eligible to State reimbursement for tuition expenditures in outside high schools from \$500,000 to \$750,000. Having less than five hundred families, Rutland is not required to maintain a high school, and, its valuation being \$669,332, it may now, if it choose, send its high-school pupils to another town and be reimbursed for tuition expenditures. The other amendment provides that towns of less than five hundred families maintaining a high school with two or more teachers each, are entitled to a grant from the State of \$300 annually, provided their high-school conditions are approved by the State Board of Education. The sum mentioned is payable after the close of the school year, the first payment being due after Sept. 1, 1903. Should the Rutland High School be approved by the Board of Education, the town would receive this new and welcome grant from the State. At the request of the committee and superintendent, the agent of the Board, Mr. J. W. MacDonald, has inspected the school, with a view to determining whether the conditions justify its approval. At this writing the final decision of the Board has not been received.

Attendance.—A reference to the "Summary of Attendance" shows that the per cent. of attendance has fallen off from that of last year, and that this town now ranks the lowest in the district in this matter. The "Statistical Tables" show in which schools the greatest losses have occurred. It will be seen that West Rutland has done its part toward making a good record for the town. Parents are earnestly asked to unite with the teachers in a strong effort to greatly increase the regularity of attendance during the coming year.

Repairs and Apparatus.—The interior of the building at West Rutland was renovated in an inexpensive way during the summer. The growth of this school will probably make a larger room necessary in the near future.

A beginning has been made toward equipping the schools with needed apparatus by the purchase of several globes and maps, and of a small encyclopedia for the high school. It is hoped the Committee may have funds sufficient to continue such equipment during the coming year.

The School Year.—Reference has already been made to the addition of four weeks to the high-school year, in order to comply with the law. The year for the other schools remains at thirty-two weeks, the lowest legal limit. Let me call attention again to the words of Secretary Hill:

If towns plan for precisely thirty-two weeks' schooling, they expose themselves to a pretty strong likelihood of running short of that length. Would it not be wise for them to add a margin of a week or two for contingencies? A generous margin thus added would still leave them several weeks behind the State average.

I trust that the voters may grant the Committee sufficient funds to enable them to continue the schools for at least thirty-four weeks.

Again let me record my grateful appreciation of the continued confidence and support of the several committees.

Respectfully submitted,

HERBERT J. JONES,

Superintendent of Schools.

Holden, Mass., March 7, 1903.

